

Living A Life Of Purpose

February 3 - 24, 2008

(Church Logo)

(Picture)

Feb. 3

Fellowship
(Connect)

Feb. 10

Discipleship
(Serve)

Feb. 17

Ministry
(Grow)

Feb. 24

Evangelize
(Reach)

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Reaching Out

From Pastor Sean Gillespie

Over the next 4 weeks we will look at and study 4 principles that are critical pieces to help our church family function properly. We would like you as a small group to decide on and participate in an outreach project centered around one of the 4 principles.

1-Fellowship(Connect)

2-Discipleship(Serve)

3-Ministry(Grow)

4-Evangelize(Reach)

Fellowship-Most all Christians would agree that accountability is important to the process of growing as a disciple of Christ. One of the key benefits for accountability is fellowship with another believer. We seek accountability for ourselves and we agree to hold others accountable for the sake of spiritual development and public witness. This week ask one of the members in your small group to be an accountability partner with you for one week. During that week....meet together one time as well as connect via phone or email. Structure your time together by sharing

Discipleship-Decide on a way for your small group to be able to Serve in some fashion within the Church during this week. Call Pastor Paul or Pastor Rod and ask in what way can your small group serve Westbrook Baptist Church during this week. It could be filling in for someone missing in Children's Church or it could be going over and clearing brush and tree limbs from an elderly church members home or it could be helping Rhonda with something at the church.

Ministry-As a small group ask one of the ministry department heads at Westbrook in what way can you minister as a group in the upcoming week. An example might be that your small group gets with Shivaun (Children's Pastor) and works together and runs Children's church on an upcoming Sunday...engaging everyone of all ages in your small group with participation. For us to continue to grow in our faith we will need to continue to serve in ministry where we are.

Evangelism-As a small group decide on an evangelism project that you can do in your community in the upcoming week. For us to continue to be a lighthouse in our community we will need to be specific and strategic in our sharing of the message of Christ.."Preach the word...with great patience and careful instruction."

Fellowship (Connect)

1 John 1:6-7

6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Warm-Up: *What is one thing that makes your Small Group Special?*

V6:

1. Can you have fellowship with God and be living in Darkness? Explain.
2. What is the word “truth” referring to in this verse?
3. Why is the terminology, “live by the truth” so important?

V7:

1. Who is “he” in this verse referring to?
2. Why is having fellowship with one another so important?
3. Why does fellowship play such an important role in us being purified from all sin?

Application

How can I walk in the light and live by the truth better, so that I have better fellowship with my Savior and other believers?

A better Understanding

V5. - This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

V8-9. - If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

John Darby's Synopsis of the New Testament

Now God was light, perfect purity, which makes manifest at the same time all that is pure, and all that is not so. To have communion with light, one must oneself be light, be of its nature, and fit to be seen in the perfect light. It can only be linked with that which is of itself. If there is anything else that mingles with it, light is no longer light. It is absolute in its nature, so as to exclude all that is not itself. Therefore, if we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not practise truth: our life is a perpetual lie. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we (believers) have communion with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. These are the great principles, the great features of christian position. We are in the presence of God without a veil. It is a real thing, a matter of life and of walk. It is not the same thing as walking according to the light; but it is in the light. That is to say, that this walk is before the eyes of God, enlightened by the full revelation of what He is.

Fellowship Involves Laboring Together for God

Today, the subject of fellowship among brethren is often reduced to the consideration of a common meal together. However, biblically, comparatively few passages address this kind of fellowship (e.g., Acts 2:46). Perhaps more passages which pertain to fellowship depict it as *working together for the Lord* than any other activity. In this vein, Paul referred to Timothy as his "*workfellow*" (Rom. 16:21) and Titus as his "*fellowhelper*" (2 Cor. 8:23). (1) "The New Testament Church Is Divine In Fellowship"

By Louis Rushmore

Discipleship (Serve)

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Warm-Up: *Have you ever felt out of place while serving in ministry? Why?*

V4:

1. What is this verse saying?
2. Why is it important to understand that it is the “same spirit”?

V5:

1. Why does the author feel a need to tell us “there are different kinds of service”?

V6:

1. Why does the author talk about “working” after talking about “service” in v5? Is there a difference between service and working?

Application

What are some of your gifts and how can they help you serve your church family?

Jamieson, Faussett, and Brown

4. diversities of gifts--that is, varieties of spiritual endowments peculiar to the several members of the Church: compare "dividing to every man severally" (1Co 12:11).

same Spirit--The Holy Trinity appears here: the *Holy Spirit* in this verse; *Christ* in 1Co 12:5; and *the Father* in 1Co 12:6. The terms "gifts," "administrations," and "operations," respectively correspond to the Divine Three. *The Spirit* is treated of in 1Co 12:7, &c.; *the Lord*, in 1Co 12:12, &c.; *God*, in 1Co 12:28. (Compare Eph 4:4-6).

5, 6. "Gifts" (1Co 12:4), "administrations" (the various *functions* and *services* performed by those having the gifts, compare 1Co 12:28), and "operations" (the actual *effects* resulting from both the former, through the universally operative power of the one Father who is "above all, through all, and in us all"), form an ascending climax [HENDERSON, *Inspiration*].
same Lord--whom the Spirit glorifies by these *ministrations* [BENGEL].

Ministry (Grow)

Warm-Up: *What is one of your best memories growing up as a child?*

Acts 6:3-4

3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.

We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

V3:

1. Why was it important to hand some responsibility over to others?
2. Why were the guidelines of being full of the spirit and wisdom so significant? How does this apply to ministry and spiritual growth?

V4:

1. Why is prayer so effective within the ministry of the word?
2. What is the "ministry of the word referring to"?

Application

In what ways can you prepare yourself to handle the responsibilities God gives you in the ministry of the Word?

A better Understanding

V1. - In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

V2. - So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

V5. - This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

V6. - They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

V7. - So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Matthew Henry Concise Edition

Verses 1-7 Hitherto the disciples had been of one accord; this often had been noticed to their honour; but now they were multiplied, they began to murmur. The word of God was enough to take up all the thoughts, cares, and time of the apostles. The persons chosen to serve tables must be duly qualified. They must be filled with gifts and graces of the Holy Ghost, necessary to rightly managing this trust; men of truth, and hating covetousness. All who are employed in the service of the church, ought to be commended to the Divine grace by the prayers of the church. They blessed them in the name of the Lord. The word and grace of God are greatly magnified, when those are wrought upon by it, who were least likely.

Evangelism (Reach)

2 Timothy 4:1-2

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Warm-Up: *Name one person who helped your come to an understanding of Christ and his teachings?*

V1:

1. Why is the author so passionate about giving this charge?
2. How does this introduction into the chapter validate what the author is about to say? (In the presence...)

V2:

1. How can you be prepared in and out of season?
2. How does rebuke and encouragement work together?
3. Why is it so important to have patience and use careful instruction?

Application

In what ways can you put these principles in verse 2 to practice for evangelism to the lost and hurting within our own community?

A better Understanding

V3. - For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

V4. - They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

V5. - But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Jamieson, Faussett, and Brown

1. shall judge--His *commission* from God is mentioned, Ac 10:42; his resolution to do so, 1Pe 4:5; the execution of his commission, here.

at his appearing--The oldest manuscripts read, "and" for "at"; then translate, "(I charge thee *before God* . . .) and *by His appearing*."

2. Preach--literally, "proclaim as a herald." The term for the discourses in the synagogue was *daraschoth*; the corresponding *Greek* term (implying dialectical style, dialogue, and discussion, Ac 17:2, 18; 18:4, 19) is applied in Acts to *discourses* in the Christian Church. JUSTIN MARTYR [*Apology*, 2], describes the order of public worship, "On Sunday all meet and the writings of the apostles and prophets are read; then the president delivers a discourse; after this all stand up and pray; then there is offered bread and wine and water; the president likewise prays and gives thanks, and the people solemnly assent, saying, Amen." The bishops and presbyters had the right and duty to preach, but they sometimes called on deacons, and even laymen, to preach.

be instant--that is, urgent, earnest, in the whole work of the ministry.

in season, out of season--that is, at all seasons; whether they regard your speaking as seasonable or unseasonable. "Just as the fountains, though none may draw from them, still flow on; and the rivers, though none drink of them, still run; so must we do all on our part in speaking, though none give heed to us" [

